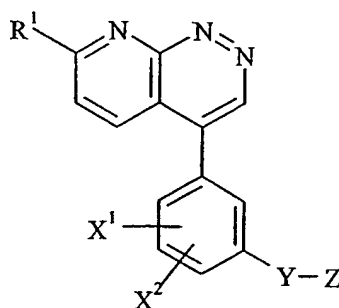


CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula I, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:

5



(I)

wherein

10 X¹ represents hydrogen, halogen, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, trifluoromethyl or C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy;

X² represents hydrogen or halogen;

Y represents a chemical bond, an oxygen atom, or a -NH- linkage;

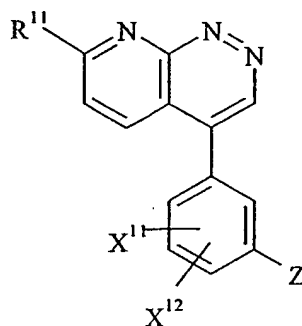
Z represents an optionally substituted aryl or heteroaryl group;

15 R¹ represents hydrogen, hydrocarbon, a heterocyclic group, halogen, cyano, trifluoromethyl, nitro, -OR<sup>a</sup>, -SR<sup>a</sup>, -SOR<sup>a</sup>, -SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>a</sup>, -SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>a</sup>R<sup>b</sup>, -NR<sup>a</sup>R<sup>b</sup>, -NR<sup>a</sup>COR<sup>b</sup>, -NR<sup>a</sup>CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>b</sup>, -COR<sup>a</sup>, -CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>a</sup>, -CONR<sup>a</sup>R<sup>b</sup> or -CR<sup>a</sup>=NOR<sup>b</sup>; and

R<sup>a</sup> and R<sup>b</sup> independently represent hydrogen, hydrocarbon or a heterocyclic group.

20

2. A compound according to claim 1 of formula IIA:



(IIA)

wherein

Z is as defined above;

5         $X^{11}$  represents hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, methyl, trifluoromethyl or methoxy;

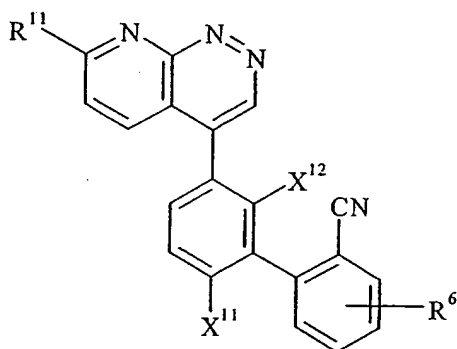
$X^{12}$  represents hydrogen or fluoro;

$R^{11}$  represents hydrogen,  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl, halo( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl, dihalo( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl, hydroxy( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl, dihydroxy( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl,  $C_{1-6}$  alkoxy( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl, di( $C_{1-6}$ )alkoxy( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl, cyano( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl,  $C_{2-6}$  alkoxycarbonyl( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl,  $C_{3-7}$  cycloalkyl, heteroaryl,  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl-heteroaryl, heteroaryl( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl, halogen, cyano, trifluoromethyl, formyl,  $C_{2-6}$  alkylcarbonyl,  $C_{2-6}$  alkoxycarbonyl or  $-CR^4=NOR^5$ ;

$R^4$  represents hydrogen or  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl; and

15         $R^5$  represents hydrogen,  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl, hydroxy( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl or di( $C_{1-6}$ )alkylamino( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl.

3.        A compound according to claim 1 or 2 of formula IIB:



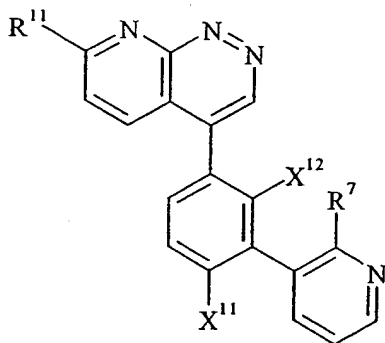
(IIB)

wherein  $X^{11}$ ,  $X^{12}$  and  $R^{11}$  are as defined in claim 1; and

$R^6$  represents hydrogen or fluoro.

5

4. A compound according to claim 1 or 2 of formula IIC:



(IIC)

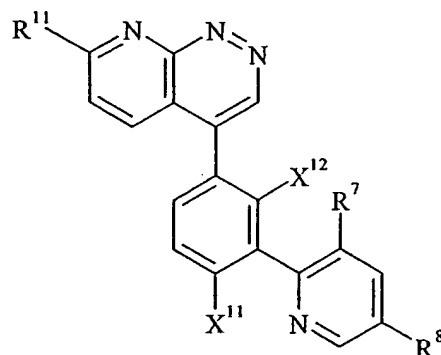
10

wherein  $X^{11}$ ,  $X^{12}$  and  $R^{11}$  are as defined in claim 1; and

$R^7$  represents hydrogen, fluoro, cyano or methyl.

5. A compound according to claim 1 or 2 of formula IID:

15



(IID)

wherein X<sup>11</sup>, X<sup>12</sup>, R<sup>7</sup> and R<sup>11</sup> are as defined in claim 1; and

R<sup>8</sup> represents hydrogen or fluoro.

5

6. 2'-Fluoro-5'-(7-trifluoromethylpyrido[2,3-*c*]pyridazin-4-yl)biphenyl-2-carbonitrile and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

10

7. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 6, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

15

8. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 6, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for use in a method of treatment of the human body.

20

9. Use of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 6, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for the manufacture of a medicament for treating or preventing anxiety, convulsions or cognitive disorders.

10. A method for the treatment and/or prevention of anxiety, convulsions or cognitive disorders, which comprises administering to a patient in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound of

claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.